

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AS, NZ, TH
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ATTITUDE TOWARDS
UNFDAC CONTRIBUTION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNFDAC PRESS RELEASE DATED MAY 3 IN
CONNECTION WITH REXED VISIT:
BEGIN TEXT - "AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE EXPRESSED
THEIR SUPPORT OF PLANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG
ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC) TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS IN ASIA,
PARTICULARLY THAILAND. THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE PLANS IS TO
ELIMINATE THE ILLICIT GROWTH OF THE OPIUM POPPY BY THE
EXTENSION OF THE RESULTS OF PILOT CROP SUBSTITUTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, THROUGH PROGRAMMES OF
INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN OPIUM-GROWING AREAS.

"DR. BROR REXED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFDAC, HELD
TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND DURING A VISIT TO THOSE COUNTRIES FROM 19 TO
25 APRIL.

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"THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
INFORMED DR. REXED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS
UNFDAC'S POLICY FOR REDUCING ILLICIT OPIUM POPPY SUPPLY.
HE STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER FAVOURABLY
REQUESTS BY AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT ACTIVITIES HAVING THE OBJECTIVE OF REPLACING ILLICIT

NARCOTICS CULTIVATION.

"THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NEW ZEALAND ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL. THE MINISTER STATED: 'THE WORK OF THE FUND COVERING CROP REPLACEMENT, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AS WELL AS PROVIDING EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAMMES IS ONE WHICH NEW ZEALAND FULLY ENDORSES'. HE ADDED: 'OUR OWN BILATERAL AID PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN THAILAND IS WORKING ALONG SIMILAR LINES INVOLVED WITH ALTERNATIVE CROPS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RAISING LIVING STANDARDS...I AM INTERESTED TO LEARN OF DISCUSSIONS GOING ON BETWEEN UNFAC, THE GOVERNMENTS OF OPIUM-PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS ABOUT A MAJOR EXPANSION OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN CROP SUBSTITUTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. NEW ZEALAND BELIEVES THIS PROGRAMME IS BOTH URGENTLY NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE AND WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS". END TEXT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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